Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1. – 4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented) A light beam scanning apparatus comprising:

light beam emitting means for outputting a light beam:

a beam scanner for reflecting the light beam outputted from said light beam emitting device towards a to-be-scanned surface to scan the to-be-scanned surface by use of the light beam in a main scanning direction;

a first beam position detector for detecting the light beam scanned on the to-be-scanned surface by said beam scanner and generating an output signal which is continuously changed with a variation in the passage position in a sub-scanning direction perpendicular to the main scanning direction of the light beam; and

a controller for controlling the position of the light beam scanned by said beam scanner on the to-be-scanned surface to a preset position based on the result of detection of said first beam position detector,

wherein said first beam position detector includes second and third beam position detectors:

said second beam position detector generates an output which continuously decreases with a variation in the passage position of the light beam in the sub-scanning direction,

said third beam position detector is disposed separately from said second beam position detector in the sub-scanning direction and generates an output which continuously increases with a variation in the passage position of the light beam, and

said controller controls the passage position of the light beam to said preset position based on the results of detection of said second and third beam position detectors.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, in which said light beam emitting means includes a plurality of light beam emitting devices and said beam scanner scans the to-be-scanned surface by use of a plurality of light beams emitted from said plurality of light beam emitting devices, and which further comprises:

light beam passage position changing means for changing the passage position of at least one of the plurality of light beams;

a fourth beam position detector having a plurality of light detecting sections arranged in a row in the sub-scanning direction between said second and third beam position detector, for detecting a plurality of light beams scanned by said beam scanner, a target passage position being set in a mid portion between every adjacent two of said light detecting sections;

beam selecting means for selectively causing one of said plurality of light beam emitting devices to emit light;

a second controller for controlling the passage position of the light beam based on the result of detection of said second and third beam position detectors by use of said light beam passage position changing means to permit one of the light beams scanned by said beam scanner to scan said fourth beam position detector; and

a third controller for controlling the passage position of the light beam based on the result of detection of said fourth beam position detector by use of said light beam passage position changing means to permit the light beam whose passage position is changed by said second controller to pass through one of the target passage positions.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

a fifth beam position detector disposed separately from said second and third beam position detectors in the main scanning direction, for detecting the light beam used for scanning the to-be-scanned surface by said beam scanner and generating an output which continuously decreases with a variation in the passage position of the light beam in the sub-scanning direction;

a sixth beam position detector disposed adjacent to said fifth beam position detector in the sub-scanning direction, for detecting the light beam used for scanning the to-be-scanned surface by said beam scanner and generating an output which continuously increases with a variation in the passage position of the light beam in the sub-scanning direction; and

inclination detecting means for detecting whole inclinations of said second to sixth beam position detectors with respect to the scanning direction of the light beam based on the results of detection of said second, third, fifth and sixth beam position detectors.

Claims 8. – 16. (Canceled).